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FLOOR DEBATE

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found out about it. I am surprised from the standpoint of the Natural Resources Committee and the work that we've done the last number of years to try to tweak, and work with, and encourage proper use of the LUST Fund money and try to get that program back on track so that it would help clean up our environment, have the money be used wisely and we're making a lot of headway on that, implementing RBCA to try to...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Since we're passing time around here, maybe I can yield some back to Senator Bromm, I don't know. But I appreciate the historical perspective that Senator Coordsen gave us on the whole basis of the LUST Fund, how it came about. And I can tell you that when it was initially established at those lower rates we didn't know what our needs were to begin with. And as needs were assessed out there, and also the initial remedial work was started in the eighties, early nineties, it wasn't a real competitive business. There were people came in here and in order to get rid of the contaminated soil they were doing things with it now that they don't have to and so on, so the costs ballooned, they just skyrocketed. We had no idea how many tanks there were, what contamination there was, so they've adjusted the rates accordingly to where it's pretty much in balance now. They're doing a much better job, it's much more efficient, the bid process is better and so on. In respect to the Amocos and the Caseys getting these funds to help clean up some sites, those are assumption of the liability of some old, old sites in many cases. I can think of one out our way who they came in there and did a site assessment. Yes, there was contamination. The prior owners were no longer there, had gone through a bankruptcy and so on, et cetera. They wanted the site, so they agreed to go ahead and cleanup the site along with using the LUST Fund. So I think in a number of those cases you're not...you're not seeing the Amocos and the Caseys out there responsible for the contamination. They're out there picking up their share of the